

Please amend the claims as follows:

10. (Amended) A computer program which controls a method of detecting a difference of one or more nucleotides between a nucleic acid molecule to be tested and a reference nucleic acid molecule, said method comprising subjecting the test nucleic acid molecule to base specific cleavage to generate oligonucleotide fragments, separating the resulting oligonucleotide fragments based on mass by MALDI-TOF MS or other equivalent procedure to produce a fingerprint of the oligonucleotide fragments comprising one or more peaks wherein a peak represents the mass of each fragment and identifying an altered peak relative to a reference nucleic acid molecule subjected to the same procedure, wherein the presence of an altered peak is indicative of a difference of one or more nucleotides in said tested nucleic acid molecule.

24. (Amended) A method for identifying or locating a mutation in one or more bases in a target nucleic acid molecule, comprising subjecting the target nucleic acid molecule to base specific cleavage to generate oligonucleotide fragments, separating the resulting oligonucleotide fragments based on mass by MALDI-TOF MS or other equivalent procedure to produce a fingerprint of the oligonucleotide fragments comprising one or more peaks wherein a peak represents the mass of each fragment, and identifying an altered peak relative to a reference nucleic acid molecule subjected to the same procedure, wherein the presence of an altered peak is indicative of a mutation in one or more bases in said target nucleic acid molecule.

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated August 20, 2001, claims 1-18 and 24-32 are under consideration. Claims 19-23 are withdrawn from consideration as drawn to non-elected